

## **Commission on Stewardship Report to the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Council**

The mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta Commission on Stewardship is to mobilize clergy and lay leaders to develop stewardship resources, enabling parishes to worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually. We are committed to equipping clergy and lay stewardship leaders with the necessary tools and resources to inspire generous giving and responsible stewardship.

In the past year, we experienced a profound loss with the passing of Mal Underwood. Mal was a long-serving chair of the Commission, instrumental in founding the Circle of Stewardship program, and a mentor to numerous churches and individuals in embracing the joys of stewardship. His vision and commitment to service and the spiritual practice of stewardship have profoundly shaped our identities as individuals and as a commission. We honor Mal's legacy by dedicating ourselves to the important work he devoted the last 40 years of his life to advancing.

This year, we organized and hosted one Circle of Stewardship workshop, a free, scripture-based training event for clergy and lay stewardship leaders. This event provided practical insights and guidance on various aspects of stewardship, including:

1. Scriptural building blocks of Christian stewardship: We explored the biblical foundation of stewardship, emphasizing the teachings and principles that guide our spiritual practice of stewardship.
2. Resources for organizing the annual stewardship program: We provided participants with practical resources to effectively organize and execute annual stewardship campaigns within their parishes.
3. Reasons for giving: We delved into the motivations and benefits of generous giving, highlighting the impact it has on individuals and the broader community.
4. Framework for starting a year-round stewardship program: We offered a framework and creative strategies for establishing year-round stewardship initiatives, ensuring stewardship remains a core focus throughout the year.
5. The importance of storytelling and stewardship: We emphasized the power of storytelling as a means to convey the impact of stewardship and engage individuals in a deeper understanding of the spiritual practice of stewardship.
6. Ways to start holy stewardship conversations in the parish: Participants gained practical guidance on initiating holy stewardship conversations within their parishes, fostering an environment conducive to open and meaningful dialogue.

In collaboration with The Episcopal Network on Stewardship (TENS), we provided all parishes within the diocese access to online resources and workshops. These workshops covered a wide range of stewardship topics, including innovative practices, effective communication strategies, financial management, and leadership development.

The password required to access TENS materials as well as various stewardship resources, including PowerPoint presentations, contact information, and workshop details, are readily available at [episcopalatlanta.org/stewardship](http://episcopalatlanta.org/stewardship).

The Commission on Stewardship actively worked with seven parishes throughout the diocese as guest leaders for annual stewardship campaigns, vestry and leadership workshops/retreats, and as general stewardship resources for parish leaders. In addition, we provided training and stewardship support for eight additional parishes. This direct involvement allowed us to provide firsthand support, guidance, and inspiration in cultivating a culture of stewardship and generosity within the wider community.

The Commission on Stewardship is actively seeking new members to join us in our work of sharing the Good News of Stewardship. Additional dedicated members of the Commission will enable us to expand our reach,

enhance our offerings, and further develop strategies to promote stewardship within the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. If you are feeling called to this ministry, please contact Tammy Pallot at [tammy@stfrancismacon.org](mailto:tammy@stfrancismacon.org).

The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta Commission on Stewardship remains committed to its mission of nurturing and promoting stewardship. We extend our gratitude to all clergy, lay leaders, and partner organizations who supported and contributed to our efforts. Together, we will continue to inspire joyful giving, responsible stewardship, and a culture of generosity within our diocese and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy E. Pallot, Chair  
Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta Commission on Stewardship

Members of the Commission on Stewardship: Tammy Pallot, Chair (Macon), Julia Gable (Decatur), Bill Monk (Sandy Springs), and Ginny Heckel (Clayton)